

March 4, 2026

Notes from the Mayor's Roundtable Meeting

Updates from the Mayor:

1. 6 Pickleball courts have officially opened at the city park adjacent to the tennis courts. They stay full.
2. The state of the art animal shelter (no kill) located in East Olive Branch close to Hacks Cross will open in 3 weeks.
3. Fire station #6 is currently under construction (\$5.4 million) on Center Hill Road. It will have one engine and eventually a ladder truck.
4. Public Works building currently under construction and will be finished this year
5. Olive Branch (city limits) population has swollen to 50,000
6. Olive Branch has obtained a \$25 million grant for sewer capacity. This money will be spent constructing and opening another treatment plant at Center Hill Road. This addition will enable the city to expand it's capacity to the outlying areas that are still on well & septic. I asked him if Belmor Lakes could benefit from the expansion. He said that yes, we could get included in the city sewer system but Great River will have to give O.B. the current pond or sell it to O. B. at a reasonable price. This could develop in the next 5 – 7 years.
7. Olive Branch has requested funds to expand Craft Road to 5 lanes for the entire area from Old 78 to I-269
8. All of the bills introduced to appropriate funds to widen Hwy 305 died in the state legislature.
9. Repaving some of Malone Rd.
10. Stateline Road will be repaved in conjunction with the City of Memphis. \$1.8 Million project, our half is \$900,000.
11. Hotel tax generates \$350,000 per year and every penny goes to the Parks department.
12. 200,000 cars per day transit through Olive Branch

Information from Department Heads:

1. Public Works Updates
 - A. Main priority is water mains, wells, leaks, and cross drains
 - B. \$5 million has been budgeted to be split between the Alderman's wards for road patching and repair this year.
 - C. \$400,000 per mile to repave a 2 land road.

2. Building Department
 - A. 2025 Olive Branch issued 201 permits for new houses (city limits)
 - B. YTD 2026 41 permits issued for new houses (city limits)
 - C. 2025 & 2026 zero permits issued for warehouses
 - D. Launched a new portal for permit applications of any kind
3. City Planner/Development
 - A. Main function is GIS and Address maintenance
 - B. Main priority is drawing a new zoning map for Olive Branch
 - C. Manages Code Enforcement Department
 - D. Talked about how great warehouses are for the City in terms of tax dollars
4. City Engineer
 - A. Predicting continued growth for Olive Branch for the next 25 years
 - B. Infrastructure is the departments biggest challenge in terms of keeping up with the growth
 - C. Has engaged a 3rd party to do complete reevaluation of roads and scoring. This will help with gauging progress and grant/funding applications.
5. O.B. Police Department
 - A. New Chief of Police Garcia
 - B. Community focus is the priority
 - C. Programs that are in place or being implemented now:
 - Citizens Police Academy
 - Citizens Volunteer Program
 - Meet & Greet for HOA's /Coffee with a Cop
 - Camp Build
 - Camp Shape
 - Shop With a Cop
6. O.B. Fire Department
 - A. Fire Chief hired summer 2025
 - B. 127 Employees / 3 Shifts
 - C. Added 4 units for Ice Storm 1/24 – 2/3 – had 386 Calls, 2 house fires, and 1 fatality
 - D. Fire Rating for Olive Branch is 4, Desoto County is 6, and Southaven is 2. The lower the number the better. We don't have enough fire stations to get lower than 4
7. Parks and Recreation:
 - A. Olive Branch has expanded the soccer complex
 - B. Massive July 4th concert and fireworks display planned at the park
 - C. Pickleball courts are open and usually packed
 - D. Plans for a man made lake behind the soccer fields that will house a science museum of sorts and kayak rentals with more things planned for water sports and recreation

